Amendments to the Specification:

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the current paragraphs 231, 232 and 234 of the published specification with the new paragraphs below in order to address the objections to the specification concerning trademarks:"

Cancel the current paragraph [231] and substitute the following:

[0231] RNA was prepared using the RN Qiagen's RNeasy® from Qiagen, as described by the manufacturer (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany). RNA was prepared from patients with B-CLL without hyper mutation who, by PCR analysis, using primers FDP5 (CCTTTATGTGTGTGACAAGTG) and F10 (ATCCAGCCAGGATGAAATAGAA), showed a high level of the resulting PCR fragment. Poly-A.+ RNA were isolated from total RNA by the "MicroPoly(A)Purist" kit from Ambion, as described by the manufacturer (Ambion, Inc., Texas, USA). Cloning-ready cDNA was prepared from 8 .mug poly-A+ RNA using the "ZAP Express. ®. XR Library Construction Kit" from Stratagene as described by the manufacturer (Stratagene, San Diego, USA). The cDNA was size fractionated and two size fractions (fraction-1: >2500 bp and fraction-2 300-2500 bp) were independently ligated to pre-digested lambda Zap vectors and packed into phage particles as described by the manufacture (Stratagene, San Diego, USA). The titer was determined for each library and 200,000 pfu of from the fraction-1 library were plated onto two 22 X.22 cm screening plates (100,000 pfu on each plate) and 750,000 pfu of the fraction-2 library were plated on five 22 X.22 cm screening plates (150,000 pfu on each) as described by Stratagene, San Diego, USA. The plates were incubated at 37 degrees C. for 18 hours and the plaques transferred to replica nylon filters (Amersham) and denatured and renatured to allow hybridization. All procedures were made as described by the manufactures (Stratagene, San Diego, USA & Amersham Biosciences, Buckinghamshire, UK).

Cancel current paragraph [232] and substitute the following:

[0232] The filters were screened by independent hybridizations with alpha[32P]-dATP-labeled DNA fragments; alpha[32P]-dATP was purchased from Amersham Biosciences, Buckinghamshire, UK. Between successive hybridizations, the old probe was removed by incubation for 20 min in 2l 90-100 degrees C. water containing 0.1% SDS. The DNA fragments used as probes were (all positions relate to sequence ID # X): 1) pos. 48978-49250; 2) pos. 50011-51591; 3) pos. 51461-52182; 4) pos. 51901-52589; 5) pos. 53121-56521; 6) pos. 58163-

59408. All hybridizations and washes were made according to the instructions from Stratagene, San Diego, USA and Amersham Biosciences, Buckinghamshire, UK; Washing was done at a high stringency (0.1 X SSC at 65 degrees C. for 20 min).

Please cancel current paragraph [234] and substitute the following paragraph therefore.

[0234] A total of 8 cDNAs were identified by cDNA cloning or by a combination of cDNA cloning, PCR analysis and RACE (rapid amplification for cDNA ends-polymerase chain reaction) using the SMART ™ RACE cDNA amplification kit (Clontech, Palo Alto, Calif.) according to the manufacturer's instructions.